

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 12-13 and 16-19 into claim 1. These amendments render the rejections moot since claims 18 and 19 were not rejected over Steen; claims 16-19 were not rejected over Bauer '097; claim 17 was not rejected over Fues; claim 19 was not rejected over Strickland; claim 17 was not rejected over Emery; claim 19 was not rejected over Ilding; claim 17 was not rejected over Bauer '447 and claims 18-19 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fues in light of Bauer '447 and further in view of Strickland. The amended claims distinguish more clearly over the cited art.

With respect to the double-patenting rejection, in light of the availability of Terminal Disclaimer practice, applicants agree to the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer upon an indication of the allowable subject matter.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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